

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9756

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, OECD, EI

SUBJECT: AIR AND WATER POLLUTION STANDARDS

REF. STATE 246231

1. IRELAND DOES NOT HAVE AIR OR WATER STANDARDS OF ITS OWN. THOSE USED ARE THE DRAFT STANDARDS COVERED BY VARIOUS EEC DIRECTIVES. FOLLOWING INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE INSTITUTE FOR INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH AND STANDARDS MAY BE OF INTEREST:

2. AIR POLLUTION STANDARDS: BEGIN QUOTE

"THERE ARE NO AMBIENT AIR QUALITY STANDARDS IN IRISH LEGISLATION AT THE MOMENT ALTHOUGH THERE ARE EEC DIRECTIVES AT PRESENT IN DRAFT FORM CONCERNING HEALTH PROTECTION STANDARDS FOR LEAD AND FOR SULPHUR DIOXIDE AND SMOKE LEVELS. IN GENERAL THESE ARE BEING SUPPORTED BY IRELAND.

"THE I.I.R.S. IS THE MAIN ADVISORY BODY IN IRELAND CONCERNED WITH ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION ABATEMENT AND AS SUCH WOULD MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES WHEN CONSIDERING NEW INDUSTRIES. THE METHOD OF APPROACH IS TO SET AN EMISSION STANDARD WHICH WILL ENSURE A GROUND LEVEL CONCENTRATION NOT IN EXCESS OF A GIVEN MAXIMUM DESIRABLE GROUND LEVEL CONCENTRATION. SUCH EMISSION LIMITS MAY BE WRITTEN

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INTO PLANNING CONDITIONS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT) ACTS OF 1963 AND 1976.

"IN THE FIRST INSTANCE OUR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A MAXIMUM DESIRABLE 3 MINUTE MEAN GROUND LEVEL CONCENTRATION OF A GIVEN POLLUTANT IS SIMPLY ONE THIRTIETH OF ITS THRESHOLD LIMIT VALUE AS LAID DOWN BY

YOUR AMERICAN CONFERENCE OF GOVERNMENTAL INDUSTRIAL HYGIENISTS.
OUR RECOMMENDATION MAY BE REDUCED FURTHER DEPENDING ON ANY
SPECIAL LOCAL CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH MAY BE RELEVANT. THE FACTOR
OF THIRTY IS MADE UP OF A FACTOR OF 10 FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE
YOUNG, SICK AND ELDERLY AND A FACTOR OF 3 TO ALLOW FOR 24 HOUR
EXPOSURE AS OPPOSED TO 8 HOUR WORKING EXPOSURE.

"ENFORCEMENT IS GENERALLY THROUGH COMMON LAW RESULTING FROM A
COMPLAINT OF NUISANCE ALTHOUGH A PROSECUTION MAY ALSO BE BROUGHT BY
THE MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNDER THE CONTROL OF ATMOSPHERIC
POLLUTION REGULATIONS, 1970 MADE UNDER SECTION 10 OF THE LOCAL
GOVERNMENT (SANITARY SERVICES) ACT, 1962." END QUOTE

3. WATER POLLUTION STANDARDS: BEGIN QUOTE

"THE POSITION WILL CHANGE IN THE NEAR FUTURE WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION
BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (WATER POLLUTION) ACT,
1977 IN APRIL 1978, BUT IT IS SAFE TO ASSUME THAT THE APPROACH ON
POLLUTION STANDARDS WILL REMAIN THE SAME AS BEFORE
WHERE IRELAND HAS FOLLOWED THE EEC DRAFT STANDARDS WHICH ARE
EXPECTED TO BE ENACTED.

"THE RELEVANT STANDARDS ARE COVERED BY VARIOUS EEC DIRECTIVES."
END QUOTE SHANNON

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